

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/676,590

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Appellant: Sig H. Badt, Jr.

Group Art Unit: 2626

Examiner: Jesse S. Pullias

Title: MULTI-MODAL INPUT FORM WITH DICTIONARY AND
GRAMMAR

Attorney Docket: 129250-002273/US

APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

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APPELLANT'S BRIEF ON APPEAL

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST:

The real party in interest in this appeal is Alcatel-Lucent, Assignment of the application having been submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and recorded at Reel 014575, Frame 0646.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES:

There are no known appeals or interferences that will affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this Appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 22-27 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 15 being written in independent form. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,668,928 to Groner ("Groner") and U.S. Patent No. 5,602,963 to Bissonnette et al. ("Bissonnette").

Claims 4, 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Groner, Bissonnette and U.S. Patent No. 6,308,157 to Vanbuskirk et al ("Vanbuskirk").

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 22-27 are being appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS:

A Pre-Appeal Brief was filed on February 4, 2010. In a Decision dated April 9, 2010, the panel responsible for reviewing the Pre-Appeal Brief indicated that claims 1,4,5,8,11,12,15,18,19 and 22-27 were rejected and directed the Appellant to proceed to file the instant appeal brief.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER:

(i). Overview of the Subject Matter of the Independent Claims

The present invention is directed at techniques for providing guidance to a user as to which verbal inputs may be recognizable by a voice recognition system. One such technique includes a user interface, where upon selection of one field and receipt of a recognized command spoken by a user, the user interface displays a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu that are appropriate for input into the selected field. More specifically, independent claim 1 reads as follows (specification citations are in parenthesis):

1. A computer interface system, comprising:

a microphone that receives audio input from a user (page 6, line 10 and page 10, lines 21-27);

a speech recognition mechanism, wherein the speech recognition mechanism includes a predefined dictionary having a plurality of recognized input terms and commands (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28); **and**

a user interface (page 8, lines 12-19), **wherein the user interface provides a form having a plurality of pull-down menu fields for user input, wherein upon selection of one field and receipt of a recognized command spoken by the user, the user interface displays a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu that are appropriate for input into the selected field on the form** (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28),

wherein upon receipt of an appropriate recognized input term, the input term is input in the selected field, and the system automatically selects a next field on the form for user input (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28).

Independent claim 8 reads as follows:

8. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a computer interface system (page 8, lines 3-5), **the computer program product comprising:**

instructions for displaying a user interface to the user, wherein the user interface provides a form including a plurality of pull-

down menu fields for user input (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

instructions for receiving a selection of a field for user input (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

instructions for providing a list of recognized input terms for the selected field in a pull-down menu (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

instructions for receiving audio input in the form of at least one word from the list from a user (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

instructions for recognizing the at least one word as an input term or a command (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

instructions for causing the user interface to display a list of recognized input terms for inputting into the selected field if the at least one word is recognized as a command (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

instructions for completing the selected field with the input term if the at least one word is recognized as the input term (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28); and

instructions for automatically selecting a next field on the form for user input upon receipt of a recognized input term (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28).

Independent claim 15 reads as follows:

15. A method for verbally completing a form on a computer, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

displaying a user interface to the user, wherein the user interface includes a plurality of pull-down menu fields for user input (page 8, line 12 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

receiving a selection of a field for user input (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

providing a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu for the selected field (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

receiving audio input in the form of at least one word from the user for the selected field (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

recognizing the at least one word as an input term or a command (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28);

if the at least one word is recognized as a command then causing the user interface to display a list of recognized input terms for inputting into the selected field (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28;

if the at least one word is recognized as an input term, then completing the selected field with the input term (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28; **and**

wherein upon receipt of a recognized input term for the selected field, automatically selecting a next field on the form for user input (page 8, line 24 to page 10, line 20 and page 11, line 11 to 28.

In order to make the overview set forth above concise the disclosure that has been included, or referred to, above only represents a portion of the total disclosure set forth in the Specification that supports the independent claims.

(ii). The Remainder of the Specification Also Supports the Claims

The Appellant notes that there may be additional disclosure in the Specification that also supports the independent and dependent claims. Further, by including the specification citations in parenthesis above the Appellant does not represent that this is the only evidence that supports the independent claims nor does Appellant necessarily represent that these citations alone can be used to fully interpret the claims of the present invention. Instead, the citations provide background support as an overview of the claimed subject matter.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL:

Appellant seeks the Board's review and reversal of: (a) the rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Groner and Bissonnette; and (b) the rejection of claims 4, 11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Groner, Bissonnette and Vanbuskirk.

VII. ARGUMENTS:

A. The Section 103 Rejections Based on Groner and Bissonnette

Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Groner and Bissonnette. Appellant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Of the rejected claims, claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent claims. It is to these claims that Appellant now turns, it being understood that the remarks which follow apply to the remaining dependent claims.

(i) claim 1

Claim 1 includes the features of a user interface, wherein upon selection of one field and receipt of a recognized command spoken by a user, the user interface displays a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu that are appropriate for input into the selected field. Contrary to the Examiner's position in the Final Office Action, Groner does not disclose or suggest these features.

The Examiner directs the Appellant's attention to column 7 and Figures 4A and B of Groner as purportedly disclosing the features above. This excerpt from Groner appears to disclose "pull down menus" 210, 212 and "speech recognition procedures" 156, including a "Voice Tool" 170. However, this excerpt does not explicitly describe the display of a pull down menu after the selection of a field and receipt of a spoken, user command.

In the Final Office Action the Examiner takes the position that the pull down menus displayed in Figure 4B are created after a user sees the pull down menus in Figure 4A and utters the word "Arrange".

However, this description (i.e., of how Figure 4B is created) is not set forth in Groner.

Initially, the Appellant notes that Groner is concerned with the ability to utter "Content Words" (e.g., nouns, pronouns) and "Non-Content Words"

(prepositions, articles such as “a”, “an” and “the” and conjunctions) instead of typing these words out using a keyboard. In contrast, the words in Figures 4A and B are neither Content nor Non-Content Words. Instead, the words in Figures 4A and B relate to functions that may be carried out, such as “File, Edit, Layout, Arrange” on a tool or task bar and “New, Open, Save, Save As” in a drop-down menu.

In sum, it does not appear to the Appellant that the drop-down menus in Figure 4B are created after a user utters the word “Arrange” upon viewing the tool bar in Figure 4A.

For the sake of argument, however, and without admitting the same, even if Groner can be interpreted as set forth in the Final Office Action the Appellant submits that Groner still does not disclose a user interface that displays a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu that are appropriate for input into a selected field after receipt of a recognized command spoken by a user. Rather, the words in the tool bar (pull down menus) of Figures 4A and B appear to be related to functions that can be selected; they do not appear to be terms that are “input into a selected field”.

Nor does Bissonnette make up for the deficiencies of Groner.

(ii) claim 8

Similar to claim 1, Groner does not disclose instructions for “causing [a] user interface to display a list of recognized input terms for inputting into [a] selected field if at least one word is recognized as a command”, as in claim 8. Again, Bissonnette does not make up for the deficiencies of Groner.

(iii) claim 15

Turning to claim 15, it includes similar features as claim 1 and 8 though described as a part of a method. For example, claim 15 includes the feature of “...causing a user interface to display a list of recognized input terms for inputting into a selected field”. For the reasons set forth above regarding claims

1 and 8, the Appellant submits that Groner fails to disclose the features of claim 15. Nor does Bissonnette make up for the deficiencies of Groner.

Accordingly, the Appellant respectfully requests that the members of the Board reverse the decisions of the Examiner, withdraw the rejections and allow claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19 and 22-27.

B. The Section 103 Rejections Based on Groner, Bissonnette and Vanbuskirk

Claims 4, 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Groner, Bissonnette and Vanbuskirk. Appellant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Because claims 4, 11 and 18 are dependent on either 1, 8 or 15 and because Vanbuskirk does not make up for the deficiencies of Groner and Bissonnette, the Appellant submits that claims 4, 11 and 18 are patentable over Groner, Bissonnette and Vanbuskirk for the reasons set forth above regarding claims 1, 8 and/or 15.

Accordingly, the Appellant respectfully requests that the members of the Board reverse the decisions of the Examiner, withdraw the rejections and allow claims 4, 11 and 18.

Conclusion:

Appellant respectfully request that members of the Board reverse the decision of the Examiner and allow claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18 ,19 and 22-27.

The Commissioner is authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3777 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A computer interface system, comprising:

a microphone that receives audio input from a user;

a speech recognition mechanism, wherein the speech recognition mechanism includes a predefined dictionary having a plurality of recognized input terms and commands; and

a user interface, wherein the user interface provides a form having a plurality of pull-down menu fields for user input, wherein upon selection of one field and receipt of a recognized command spoken by the user, the user interface displays a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu that are appropriate for input into the selected field on the form,

wherein upon receipt of an appropriate recognized input term, the input term is input in the selected field, and the system automatically selects a next field on the form for user input.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one speaker that provides an audio prompt for prompting the user to speak a recognized input term.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein a second command causes the system to display a second user interface window.

6-7. (Cancelled).

8. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a computer interface system, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for displaying a user interface to the user, wherein the user interface provides a form including a plurality of pull-down menu fields for user input;

instructions for receiving a selection of a field for user input;

instructions for providing a list of recognized input terms for the selected field in a pull-down menu;

instructions for receiving audio input in the form of at least one word from the list from a user;

instructions for recognizing the at least one word as an input term or a command;

instructions for causing the user interface to display a list of recognized input terms for inputting into the selected field if the at least one word is recognized as a command;

instructions for completing the selected field with the input term if the at least one word is recognized as the input term; and

instructions for automatically selecting a next field on the form for user input upon receipt of a recognized input term.

9-10. (Cancelled).

11. The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising:

instructions for outputting an audio prompt that prompts the user to speak a recognized input term.

12. The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for displaying a second user interface window upon receipt of a second command.

13-14. (Cancelled).

15. A method for verbally completing a form on a computer, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:

displaying a user interface to the user, wherein the user interface includes a plurality of pull-down menu fields for user input;

receiving a selection of a field for user input;

providing a list of recognized input terms in a pull-down menu for the selected field;

receiving audio input in the form of at least one word from the user for the selected field;

recognizing the at least one word as an input term or a command;

if the at least one word is recognized as a command then causing the user interface to display a list of recognized input terms for inputting into the selected field;

if the at least one word is recognized as an input term, then completing the selected field with the input term; and

wherein upon receipt of a recognized input term for the selected field, automatically selecting a next field on the form for user input.

16-17. (Cancelled).

18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising:

outputting an audio prompt that prompts the user to speak a recognized input term.

19. The method according to claim 15, further comprising displaying a second user interface window upon receipt of a second command.

20-21. (Cancelled).

22. The system according to claim 1, wherein the list of recognized input terms comprises all possible input terms for the one field.

23. The system according to claim 1, wherein the list of recognized input terms is defined in the user interface.

24. The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the list of recognized input terms comprises all possible input terms for the selected field.

25. The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the list of recognized input terms is defined in the user interface.

26. The method according to claim 15, wherein the list of recognized input terms comprises all possible input terms for the selected field.

27. The method according to claim 15, wherein the list of recognized input terms is defined in the user interface.

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IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.